

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 6, 12, and 19, which were merely objected to, have been rewritten in independent form.

The rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, has been overcome by deleting "rod-like" in favor of "elongated". A minor amendment has been made in the specification to provide a precise antecedent for "elongated".

Claims 7 and 15 have been amended to avoid the alleged ambiguity.

Claim 1 has been amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) based on Andronica. The pipe straps disclosed in Andronica are quite different in structure and function from the holder recited in Claim 1. For example, in accordance with Claim 1, the retaining element is movable from an open position to a closed position in response to movement of a slide longitudinally of a trough. In Andronica, the retaining element designated in the Office Action is opened and closed by threading the nut 24 onto the bolt 20. Claim 1 and the claims dependent thereon clearly distinguish patentably from Andronica.

Claim 16 has been amended to clarify the manner in which the recited invention distinguishes patentably from Wright, relied upon in the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). The second part designated in the Office Action is not a longitudinal extension of the trough of the first

part, which, like the trough, receives and supports an elongated object longitudinally. The second part is a cover for the trough and does not move into the trough. Accordingly, Claim 16 and the claims dependent thereon distinguish patentably from Wright and should be allowed.

Although the Office Action does not contain a rejection of Claim 1 based on Wright, the claim as amended clearly distinguishes patentably from Wright. For example, Wright does not disclose a slide defining a longitudinal extension of the trough to receive and support the object longitudinally, and the slide does not move longitudinally into the trough. Furthermore, Wright does not disclose a guide extending longitudinally of the trough between the arms of the holding portion to guide the slide for movement longitudinally into and along the trough.

This application is now believed to be in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and

has not been requested separately, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

NHS:lmb

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